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Distant, W. L. - Heterocera from the Transvaal.

(1899)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.



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MAY 23 1918

*From the ANNALS AND MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY,
Ser. 7, Vol. iv., November 1899.*

*Some apparently undescribed Species of Heterocera from
the Transvaal. By W. L. DISTANT.*

THE Moths here described will be all figured in my 'Insecta Transvaaliensia,' and they refer to species recently received from that often beautiful, always interesting, but now most unhappy country.

Fam. Lymantriidæ.

Dasychira confinis, sp. n.

Head, pronotum, and base of abdomen cretaceous, remaining two thirds of abdomen bright ochraceous; posterior margins of the three basal segments black and with two discal transverse black spots before apex. Antennæ cretaceous, its fringe ochraceous; eyes black, with their basal margins brownish. Body beneath and legs cretaceous; apex of abdomen ochraceous; legs with indeterminate black markings.

Wings above and beneath cretaceous, unicolorous.

Exp. wings 46 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, on the Natal frontier.

Chadisra bicolor, sp. n.

Head, pronotum, and apex of abdomen cinereous; antennæ and abdomen ochraceous; body beneath and legs cinereous, base of abdomen narrowly ochraceous.

Anterior wings cinereous; a lunulate fascia at end of cell and a much waved lineate fascia crossing wing beyond cell, blackish. Posterior wings bright ochraceous; a marginal spot composed of black speckles near anal angle. Anterior wings beneath a little paler than above, with the blackish markings invisible.

Exp. wings 47 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, Pretoria.

Chadisra is an Oriental genus founded on a species from Ceylon; but Sir G. F. Hampson has kindly examined the Transvaal species and pronounced it congeneric.

Heteronygmia flammeola, sp. n.

Head and pronotum griseous, longly pilose, posterior pronotal tuft ochraceous; abdomen ochraceous, with the posterior segmental margins blackish; body beneath and legs ochraceous; tibiæ more or less strongly pilose and griseous; abdomen with central and lateral longitudinal series of subquadrate piceous spots.

Anterior wings saffron-coloured, with a large patch of brown and piceous speckles on inner basal margin; two spots in centre of cell, one beneath cell, some shading beneath apical area of cell, lineate fasciæ (mixed with piceous) at end of cell, and beyond this a much waved linear fasciæ crossing wing very dark ochraceous; a submarginal outer line of dark brownish speckles, recurved and much angulated at apex;

neuration speckled with dark brownish. Posterior wings pale bright ochraceous. Wings beneath pale ochraceous.

Exp. wings 35 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, Lydenburg District.

Lælia figlina, sp. n.

Body above and beneath, legs, and antennæ pale ferruginous; eyes piceous.

Anterior wings pale ferruginous, the median nervure dark speckled, giving a faint impression of a longitudinal lineate fascia; apical area with some scattered faint dark speckles. Posterior wings greyish white, the outer margin narrowly very pale ferruginous. Wings beneath as above, but posterior wings with the costal area ferruginous.

Exp. wings 33 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, East Central Boundary.

Fam. Eupterotidæ.

Phiala arrecta, sp. n.

Pronotum lacteous; head, antennæ, and abdomen pale ochraceous; body beneath and legs ochraceous; tibiæ and abdomen more or less shaded with piceous, imperfectly seen through the ochraceous pilosity.

Wings lacteous; anterior wings with a few widely scattered black speckles, which coalesce and form a transverse nearly straight submarginal fascia. Wings beneath lacteous, unicolorous.

Exp. wings 45 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, Lydenburg District.

Fam. Notodontidæ.

Desmeocræra basalis, sp. n.

Head, pronotum, and posterior pronotal tuft cinereous; abdomen mouse-coloured; abdomen beneath and legs very pale ochraceous; sternum and pilose covering to legs white; antennæ ochraceous; eyes black, with their anterior and inner margins ochraceous.

Anterior wings griseous, their base obliquely dark cinereous; posterior wings dull greyish white, their extreme outer margin faintly and narrowly pale brownish. Wings beneath dull greyish; anterior wings and costal area of posterior wings tinged with pale brownish.

Exp. wings 50 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, Lydenburg District.

Fam. Lasiocampidæ.

Philudoria distincta, sp. n.

Body above and beneath and legs umber-brown.

Anterior wings umber-brown, crossed by three piceous fasciæ, the first somewhat perpendicular near base, the second convexly oblique passing end of cell, the third submarginal, lineate, and angularly waved. Posterior wings fawn-coloured, with very faint indications of a darker submarginal, lineate, angularly waved fascia. Anterior wings beneath pale umber-brown, unicolorous.

Exp. wings, ♂ 30, ♀ 40 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, Johannesburg, Pretoria.

Fam. Chrysopolomidæ.

Chrysopoloma varia, sp. n.

Pronotum umber-brown; head and abdomen ochraceous; body beneath and legs ochraceous; tibiæ with black annulations.

Anterior wings umber-brown, somewhat thickly and irregularly spotted with piceous; extreme outer marginal area almost impunctate. Posterior wings dull ochraceous. Wings beneath pale dull ochraceous, with a few dark speckles on their costal areas.

Exp. wings 45 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, Pretoria.

Chrysopoloma restricta, sp. n.

Pronotum fulvous; head and abdomen ochraceous; abdomen beneath fulvous; sternum and legs ochraceous; tibiæ annulated with black.

Anterior wings fulvous, crossed a little beyond cell by an almost straight, narrow, dark brown fascia. Posterior wings pale dull ochraceous. Wings beneath very pale fulvous, unicolorous.

Antennæ pale fuscous.

Exp. wings 45 millim.

Hab. Transvaal, Lydenburg District.

